

Christmas is just around the corner. It is that week when people make last minute shopping, wrapping their gifts in boxes with labels and cards addressed to specific people.



As we reflect on today's readings, we realize that it is the opposite in God. *God does not want to be put in a box.* He desires to make himself *available* as a gift to everyone, in every place, and in every time. This is the message we can take from today's readings. In the First Reading we hear of King David's plan to build a temple for God. King David was enjoying the most luxurious type of house available at the time. The house was particularly important to him because it was a gift. In gratitude to God, he decided to reciprocate what God has done to him in a manner he thought was best.

King David's plan seems nothing but admirable. It was a great plan. But there was a problem: It was his plan, not God's. Prior to this, God journeyed with the people in a tent. Wherever the people went, they felt God's presence accompanying them. Now, David wanted to fix the place of God's presence. God's presence, however, cannot be confined to one place, within a structure of stone and cedar and control people's access to him. David was thinking within a box and God does not want to be tied down to human expectations. God, therefore, tells David through the prophet Nathan that it was not for David to build a temple for him, for God desires to build a temple in each person. He is not a gift to be wrapped in a box to an individual. God desires to remain present through living people, through anyone who would hear the word of God and say, "**Fiat**" or **YES**. And that was exactly what Mary did. Mary's question was not a question of doubt, but a question of her humanity who has a specific way of viewing things. For Mary, one can only be conceived when one had a relation with a man. Like David, Mary was thinking within a box. **God invited Mary to abandon ordinary expectations and go beyond the confines of society's sense of the norm.** God makes things possible in the most surprising way to reach out to all of us. St. Paul in the Second Reading focuses on God's involvement with humanity. God desires to dwell in the midst of humanity. He desires to dwell in each one of us so that His love cannot be walled in a single place, a single time, or a single person. And so, St. Paul extends his invitation to us to join him in singing praise to God through the life we live. As we move into the table of plenty where God desires to make available his grace to all, God invites us to make his Son known to all so all may share in the banquet of heaven someday.



(Fr. Rey Sarmiento)

4th Sunday Advent 2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16; Ps 89; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

☞OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, **9:00 AM-4:00 PM**

Staff Direct Line 408-223-1770

☞STAFF + extension

Fr. Reynaldo Sarmiento,

PASTOR AND WEDDINGS

reynaldopineda.sarmiento@dsj.org

or x340

Fr. Lieu Vu

PAROCHIAL VICAR, HOMEBOUND, AND

BAPTISM— lieu.vu@dsj.org or x304

Fr. Robain Lamba

PAROCHIAL VICAR, FUNERALS, AND

QUINCEANERAS—

robain.lamba@dsj.org or x328

Deacon Sunny Offorjebe

sylvanus.offorjebe@dsj.org

Deacon Andrzej Sobczyk

andrzej.sobczyk@dsj.org

Deacon Joseph Cabrido

joseph.cabrido@dsj.org

Victor Espinoza

BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS

victor.espinoza@dsj.org or x302

Divina Orog

ACCOUNTANT

divina.orogo@dsj.org or x306

Leslie Legacion

MUSIC

leslie.legacion@dsj.org or x330

Jorge Hurtado

RECEPTIONIST, COMMUNICATIONS, AND
VOLUNTEER COMPLIANCE, BAPTISM,
FUNERALS

jorge.hurtadogomez@dsj.org or x301

Ranilo Dungo

MAINTENANCE

ranilo.dungo@dsj.org or x313

Claudia Bernaga

MEMORIAL GARDEN, FAITH FORMATION
ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.

claudia.bernaga@dsj.org or x102

Lerma Simpson

FAITH FORMATION

lerma.simpson@dsj.org or x316



**The Offertory totals for the week
of Dec. 4 - 10, 2023:**

Masses	\$ 13,360.50
Online	\$ 6,215.00
Mail	\$ 2,117.00
OLPH	\$ 173.00
1st Collection Total	\$ 21,865.00
Worship Expansion	\$ 360.00
CCHD	\$ 35.00
Thanksgiving	\$ 10.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 2,276.25
Catholic Com.	\$ 5.00
Immaculate Concep	\$ 4,704.52
Religious Retirement Fund	\$ 2,989.00
Christmas	\$ 245.00
Church in Africa	\$ 30.00
St. Francis Fund	\$ 610.00
2nd Collection	\$ 11,264.77
1st & 2nd Collection	\$ 33,129.77

*Thank you in advance
for your generous
giving.*



**QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT OUR
PARISH BUSINESS &
OPERATIONS
MANAGER VICTOR
ESPINOZA AT
408-223-1770
EXT. 302**



Monday, Dec 25

Tuesday, Dec 26

Joseph Sam Tran+
Victor Franco Borlaza+
Franco Borlaza+

Wednesday, Dec 27

Maria Do Thi Nga+
Cerila Llagast+
Lauro Zuniga+

Thursday, Dec 28

Oscar Yatco+
Dominic Chinh Nguyen+
Franco Borlaza+

Friday, Dec 29

Juanita Pagatpatan+
Martina Iringan+ (Anniv)
Franco Borlaza+

Saturday, Dec 30

Rosalinda Faraon Reyes+ (Bday)
Dante & Teresita Nieva (48 wedding anniv)
Alasyzia Faith Rubong (17th Bday)

Saturday/Sunday, December 31, 2023

4PM

Francisco Aranda+
Luisa Verbera+
Rosa Aranda+

5:30PM

Teresa Pauline Nguyen+
Sunday 8AM Chapel

Maria Roi Nguyen+
Baldomero Sanchez+
Thelma Rodin+

8:15 Villages

Jerry Kosmala+
10AM Chapel

Anna Maria Hai Nguyen+
Dong Nguyen+
Maria Diep Nguyen+

Jane & James Branham+
12PM Chapel

Maria Nguyen Thi Tho+
Tony Lu+, Bibiana & Teodoro Mendoza+

For the People of the Parish

2PM Chapel (Spanish)

Anna Bertha Alonso+ & Jose Zambrano+
Cynthia Alonzo (Bday)

Bertha & Victor (49 Anniv Wedding)

4PM Chapel (Vietnamese)

Maria Luu Pham+
Gioa Kim Thuoc Bui+
Tuyen Vu+

6PM Chapel

Vienvenido Hucalla+
Lucila Hucalla+
Michael Solari+

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- ♦ **Daily Rosary and Prayer**
8:00AM, Chapel
- ♦ **Adoration**, First Friday of
month, 9:30AM-5:00PM, Chapel
- ♦ **Our Lady of Perpetual Help**
Wednesdays, Chapel
Rosary/Novena/Mass 6:30PM

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
(CONFESSIONS)**

Saturdays, 11am - 12pm, Chapel

**IMPORTANT CONTACTS:
Crisis Mental Health Services
988**

Suicide Hotlines

Santa Clara County 855-278-4204

Text Line: 741741

(Text "BAY" for Crisis Support in Bay Area)

California Youth Crisis

800-843-5200

Santa Clara County Emergency
Psychiatric Service (EPS)

485-885-6100

NAMI Warm Line

(open Mon-Fri, 10AM-6PM)

408-453-0400

The Peace Prayer of St. Francis



Lord, make me an
instrument of your peace;
where there is hatred,
let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to
be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are
pardoned, and it is in dying that we
are born to Eternal Life.

AWESOME TIDBITS FROM FR. REY



Merry Christmas

Christmas is a time when people give a lot of gifts. Often times, what happens is that people merely exchange gifts with one another without them even planning it. I give one a gift, the other gives me a gift as well. With all these exchanges of gifts going on, Christmas is also a time to recall the exchange of gifts that transpired between God and humanity when He sent his only Son. We gave God our humanity, and God gave us his divinity. For this reason, we celebrate the fact that when God became flesh and dwelt among us, he gave us his divinity. This is a far better gift that we could possibly give God because when Jesus took on our flesh to become like one of us, we now we have the chance to experience his divine life. To be sure the Christmas joy that we experience here on earth is a foretaste of the true and lasting joy God wants to give us. In response to God's love for us, may we like John the Baptist, testify to the light that Christ brings so that all might believe in Christ through us. As we continue our celebration, be a gift to someone, give joy to somebody that they may experience Christ who gave himself to us as his gift.



... Liturgy Team (you know who you are ☺)
headed by Fr. Robain Lamba, for all the preparation and execution of all our liturgical celebrations from the Season of Advent to Christmas. Grateful for your dedication in the service for the people of God. You are all awesome!

...YOU, our parishioners.

Thank you for your presence, and for your generosity. May you continue to be a gift and a blessing to others.

On behalf of Fathers Lieu and Robain, and our parish staff, I wish you all a blessed Christmas.



23-24 December 2023

Fourth Sunday Of Advent

Saturday (Anticipated)

4:00p.m. - Bishop Oscar Cantu (Simbang Gabi)

5:30p.m. - Fr. Lieu Vu (Vietnamese)

Sunday

8:00 am – Fr. Rey (Assist Dcn. Ryan)

8:15 am - Msgr. Mitchell (The Villages)

10:00 am – Fr. Robain (Dcn. Joe)

12:00 pm – Fr. Rey (Dcn. Ryan)

Mass Intentions for 2024 are now open.

We understand how important it is to have Mass intentions for your loved ones and would like to accommodate all if possible. We are limited to 3 per Mass. Please plan your Mass intentions in advance if possible (Birthdays, anniversaries, death anniversaries). Our Mass Intention calendar is open through **June 30, 2024.**



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH MEMORIAL GARDEN
"It is in dying that we are born to eternal life"

- St. Francis of Assisi

The Memorial Garden is a place for the cremated remains of those who have gone before us, and to memorialize others who have died but are buried elsewhere. The Garden, it is a quiet space in which you can pray, reflect, and remember. We also honor the four periods and peoples of the history of Evergreen: the Ohlone Native Peoples, the Spanish and Mexican settlers, the ranchers and vintners, and those who have developed the land and reside here now. If you would like information about the Memorial Garden, please contact **Claudia Bernaga** (**Monday-Wednesday 9AM-4PM, Thursday-Friday, 9AM-1PM**) to schedule an appointment at claudia.bernaga@dsj.org, or 408.223.1770, ext. 102.

PAVING STONES

Also part of the Memorial Garden are paving stones and the Stations of the Cross. If you wish to fill out an order form for the paving stones, you can download the order form (<https://www.sfoasj.com/paving-stones-order-form>) and mail it or drop it by the office.

ALL ARE WELCOME FOR MORNING FAITH SHARING EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 AM IN THE PARISH OFFICE

"Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me." Matthew 10:40

We all have a story to tell, especially of how God has been and continues to work in our lives, sometimes without our even knowing it. You are welcome to share those stories in a small group and in a confidential setting as we reflect on how scripture speaks to us through our own life experiences. It might be a memory of a time when God touched us, it might be a challenge with which we are dealing in the present moment.

Sharing stories helps us deepen our own personal faith, and hearing others' stories of God's presence in their lives brings us into deeper relationship with each other and with God.

For more information, please contact **Lerma Simpson at (408) 223-1770 ext. 316 or at lerma.simpson@dsj.org**



The parish gift shop is seeking volunteers who can assist with sales one Fridays and or Sundays. Do you have retail experience? Would you like to gain retail experience? Training will be provided to all. This is a great opportunity for anyone who would like to help our parish for a couple of hours per week. Come join our wonderful team of volunteers and help to serve our community!

To join our team or for additional

information contact: The Office
408-223-1562

Buscamos Voluntarios

La tiendita de artículos religiosos de la parroquia busca voluntarios para ayudar a vender después de la misa de 2:00 pm por una hora en un domingo por mes. No se necesita experiencia, se ofrecerá entrenamiento. Para más información en español o para apuntarse, puede llamar a la oficina de la parroquia 408-223-1562

PRAYER REQUEST
WE ARE HERE TO PRAY FOR YOU



We also Pray for...

Those who suffer in silence

Those with cancer

The who have no one to pray for them

Graduating classes of 2024

Those beginning new journeys

SUNDAY'S SCRIPTS

READINGS

TODAY'S READINGS

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Reading I:

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading II:

Romans 16:25-27

Gospel:

Luke 1:26-38

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY, AND JOSEPH

Reading I:

Genesis 15:1 - 6; 21:1 - 3

Reading II:

Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22 - 40



LEGION OF MARY

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
is hosted by
Legion of Mary
every Wednesday
in the Chapel,
with a
Rosary/Novena at 6:30PM followed
by Mass.

Faith Formation Dates to Remember:

JOY (and first year preparation for children's sacraments)

December 24/25 Christmas Eve/Day
– Holy Day of Obligation

January 7 sessions (Attend your assigned session time)
High School students attend JOY through IGNITE
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

First Communion Second Year Preparation

December 24/25 Christmas Eve/Day
– Holy Day of Obligation
January 21 sessions (Attend your assigned session time)

Youth Confirmation Second Year Preparation

– sessions 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM in the Evergreen Rooms
December 24/25 Christmas Eve/Day
– Holy Day of Obligation
January 9 session

Adult Confirmation

– sessions 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in the parish office
December 24/25 Christmas Eve/Day
– Holy Day of Obligation
January 7 session

OCIA (ADULTS)

– sessions 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the parish office
January 7 Attend 10:00 AM Mass for dismissal to the session

OCIA (CHILDREN/YOUTH) Second Year Preparation

– sessions 10:00 AM to 11:30 PM in the parish office
January 7 Attend your assigned JOY session time
High School students attend JOY through IGNITE
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM
January 21 Attend 10:00 AM Mass for dismissal to the session

Middle School ECHO – meet in the Gathering Hall 6:00 to 8:00 PM

December 15-29 Christmas Break

High School IGNITE – meet in the Gathering Hall 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM

January 7 session

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

Thank You.

I want to thank you the following people for making our fundraiser such a success:

Oscar Martin, Joy Ocmeja, Irene Camerino, and Mary Kolb for helping with stuffing envelopes and promoting sales. Special thanks to Mary Kolb for helping with material distribution and mailing.

Raffle Winners Announced!

Grand Prize Winner

Christine Bui

Second Prize Winner

Tommy Le

Third Prize Winner

Trinh Tran

Fourth Prize Winner

Trang Le

The Christmas season is here! Christmas is not just one day – it is a whole season, and after four weeks of preparing, the celebration has just begun! And since Jesus is the reason to celebrate, why not make Jesus part of your Christmas celebrations. Here are some ideas to include Jesus in your Christmas celebrations: Go to Mass with your family. Invite friends to join you.

Read the Christmas story (Luke 2:1-20) and other Christmas stories before going to bed each night.

Make a birthday cake for Jesus.

Dress up for Sunday dinners – Jesus the long awaited guest is coming to your house!

Light a fire in the fireplace, sip some cocoa, and snuggle on the couch for classic Christmas movies.

Sing nightly lullabies to baby Jesus before going to bed.

Keep the Christmas decorations up at least until January 9, and light candles at all octave dinners.

Remembering that Jesus came as a baby, who does your family know has just had a baby? Can your family bring them a home-cooked meal? Is there a family shelter in the area that needs diapers and other baby supplies?

Make each day of your Christmas celebrations special, and relish Emmanuel, “God With Us”, in the manger and in your loved ones. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULES

Vigil of Christmas

Sunday, December 24th

4:00 pm: 5:00 pm Masses (The Villages)

6:00 pm Mass (Vietnamese)

8:00 pm Mass (Bilingual)

11:30 pm (Lessons & Carols)

12 midnight Mass

Nativity of Jesus (Christmas Day) Masses

Monday, December 25th

8:00 am; 10:00 am; 12:00 noon

4:00 pm (Vietnamese)

Solemnity of Mary

The Mother of God

Monday, January 1, 2024

9:00 am (Rosary for Peace)

9:30 am Mass

5:00 pm Mass (Vietnamese)

Advent Schedules

Christmas Tree Lighting & Sweepstakes Raffle Draw

Saturday, December 2nd

6:45 pm Hospitality/Gathering Space

The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, December 7th Vigil Mass 7:00 pm

Friday, December 8th Masses

8:30; 10:30 am

5:00 pm (Vietnamese)

7:00 pm (Bilingual)

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Tuesday, December 12th, 7:00 pm

Simbang Gabi (Advent Novena-Masses)

December 15, 18 - 22, 7:00 pm

December 16th, & 23rd, 4:00 pm

December 17th, 6:00 pm

Advent Recollection

Wednesday, December 13th, 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Sandersfeld Hall

Advent Communal Reconciliation Service

Thursday, December 14th, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Chapel

4th Sunday of Advent Masses

8:15 am (*The Villages*)

10:00 am, 12 noon (*Chapel*)